

Silent Visitor



1918 - 2018

November 2018

Who's Who at Bradleigh Avenue

Minister: Rev'd David Coaker

Mobile No: 07378 348191

E Mail: drcoaker@gmail.com

Secretary: Mrs Elaine Barcz 01375 400903

Treasurer: Mr Alan Beckley

Serving Elders: Mr Alf Pryer & Mrs Denise Beckley

Organist: Mr Richard Wade

Facilities Manager: Mrs Charlotte Webb
& Mobile No: 0784 3559011
Hire of Halls: graysurc@gmail.com

Silent Visitor: Mrs Janet Semain 01375 373532
geojan321@sky.com

Leaders of the Uniformed Organisations:

Group Scout Leader: Mr Tim Webb
Tel: 01375 391031

Guide Leader: Miss Gill Davidson
Tel: 01375 384253

Brownie Leader: Ms Madeleine Loin
Mobile No: 07971 139384

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row

So begins John McCrae's poem. It was written in response to a friend's death in the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. It was also the inspiration behind Moina Michael's campaign in 1918 for red poppies to be worn in remembrance in America which spread to the UK and was adopted by the British Legion.

Scarlet corn poppies grow naturally in conditions of disturbed earth throughout Western Europe. The destruction brought by the Napoleonic wars of the early 19th Century transformed bare land into fields of blood red poppies, growing around the bodies of the fallen soldiers. In late 1914, the fields of Northern France and Flanders were once again ripped open and again the poppy was one of the only plants to grow on the otherwise barren battlefields.

It was this image of poppies bursting forth in places of death and destruction that was the original inspiration for our annual wearing of them. To a greater or lesser extent, the emphasis has always been on those who died winning the conflict. It is a tradition that we have in common with the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In contrast the equivalent to our marking of the Armistice in Germany is Volkstrauertag (German for "people's day of mourning"). It is a public holiday two Sundays before the first day of Advent. It commemorates members of the German armed forces and civilians who died in armed conflicts, including victims of oppression.



Remembrance Sunday will always hold within it the tensions of violence and peace, courage and duty, horror and regret, victory and defeat, and much more. It is an impossible balance to strike, but it is one we must strive to make.

The personal balance I try to make is to wear both a red and a white poppy. The white poppies were first introduced in the 1930s to remember all casualties of war including civilians, and non-British casualties, to stand for peace, and not to glamorize war.

This Remembrance we will seek to honour those who died and to pray and act for peace.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks , still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.



We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset
glow,
Loved and were loved, and now
we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Thiepval Cemetery & Memorial to
the missing with 72,000 names engraved

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hand we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If you break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae



German WW1 Cemetery, Belgium
(Well tended but quite drab by comparison)

Armistice

The End Game of World War One

A chance to watch together the BBC documentary and reflect on the story it tells.



**Wednesday
28th Nov
1.00-2.30pm**

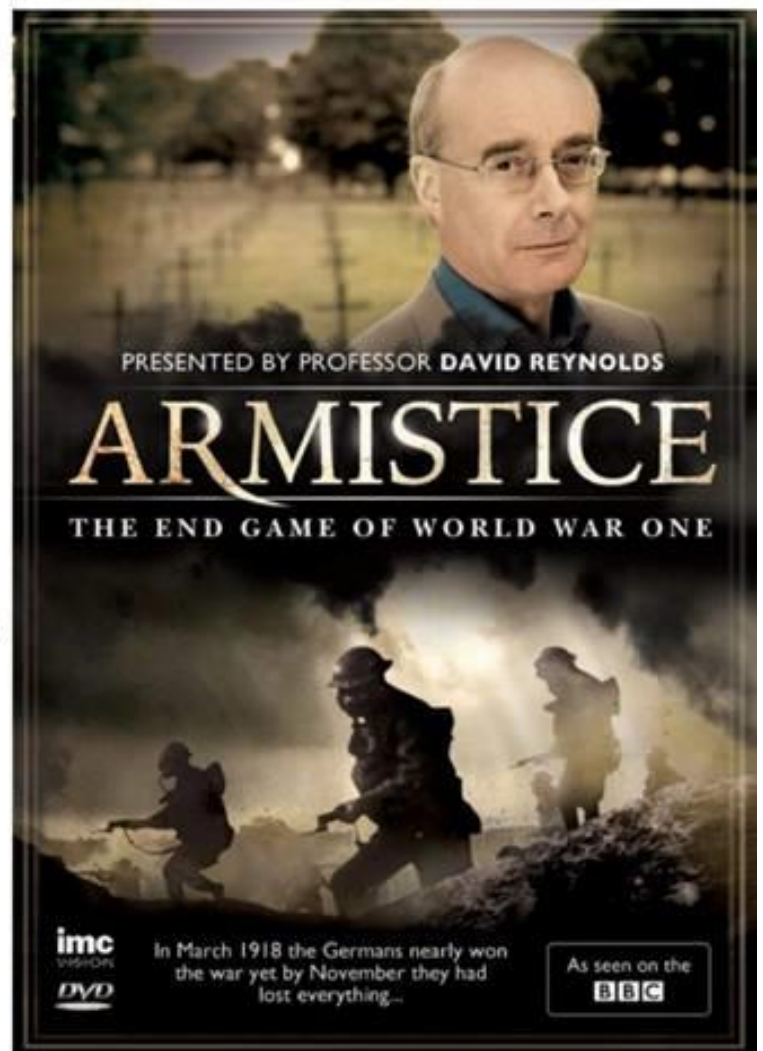


**Grays United Reformed Church
Bradleigh Avenue, RM17 5XD**

Professor David Reynolds takes a fresh look at the extraordinary events and personalities involved in the Armistice which brought the First World War to an end in 1918.

He uncovers a story of wounded egos, political scheming and brinkmanship behind the lines as statesmen and generals haggled over the terms of peace while, at the front, the soldiers fought on as the cost of human life escalated.

Outline of time together:
Welcome & refreshments
Watch episode (1 hr.)
Brief closing discussion



Swanwick Weekend 2019



The Annual convention of Christian Women's Fellowship is taking place at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire from Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th February 2019.

For many years now women from our church have been attending. It is a very inspirational weekend with varied program, good speakers, good company, lots of laughs, a lot of lovely food and comfortable accommodation.

It is now time to think about if you would like to attend in 2019 as they would like bookings by 30th November 2018. You will find the booking form and more detailed information on the Notice Board in the hall or ask me, Elaine or Denise.

This year the theme was "Your life in God's balance". The Key Speaker was Rev'd Kate Coleman – very, very good.

The 2019 theme is "Opening Doors – The Persecuted Church". The key speaker will be Andy Kawalek from Open Doors.

The cost for the weekend staying in a standard room is £119 and in an en-suite room £147.

You can get there by car or by train + bus. If several people come from our church we usually travel together. However, I normally combine this weekend with a visit to my daughter in Derbyshire so do not fit in with the travel times easily for giving a lift – sorry.

There is a Subsidy Fund to help anyone deterred from coming by the cost of travel/or the weekend.

Hope to see you there!

Inger Collier



Oldies Jokes!

Looks Aren't Everything –

Doctor : At your husband's age, we can't be too careful, Mrs Brown.



Mrs Brown: Is it serious, then, doctor?

Doctor: Well, I can't say I like the look of him.

Mrs Brown: Neither do I, doctor, but he's very good to the children.

.....

Heaven Can Wait –

An elderly patient came round in a hospital ward after an operation and was rather perturbed to find screens around his bed.

"What are the screens for?" he feebly asked the nurse taking his temperature. "Didn't you expect me to come round from the anaesthetic?"

"Oh, it's not that," the nurse reassured him. "The building opposite caught fire and went up in flames, and we didn't want you to think that the worst had happened."

.....

Tongue Twister –

Retired Doctor: I'd like some – some – oh, what's its name? I know! Some acetylsalicylic acid, please.

Pharmacist: You mean aspirin, sir?

Retired Doctor: Yes, I can never remember that damn name.

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You know when you're old when you need your hearing aid and false teeth before you can ask where you left your glasses!



One of the advantages of being seventy is that you only need four hours' sleep. All right, you need it four times a day, but still!

Courtesy of Alf Pryer



Christmas Greetings



With Christmas decorations starting to appear at Lakeside and no doubt other shopping centres, it was a reminder that for the past few years or so some members have opted to include a Christmas greeting in the December edition of the Silent Visitor instead of sending individual cards.

The original idea was that any money saved by doing this could be donated individually to Charity.

If you would like a greeting included please let me have your greeting **(in writing or by e-mail)** along with **your name and the name of your charity no later than Sunday 18 November.**

Many thanks, Janet Semain

Christmas Market



Don't forget to come and support the Christmas Market on Saturday 17th November from 10 am – 1 pm.

If you have any donations of items suitable for the stalls please let the stallholders have them in advance. (Attached poster with more information).

Thurrock Foodbank

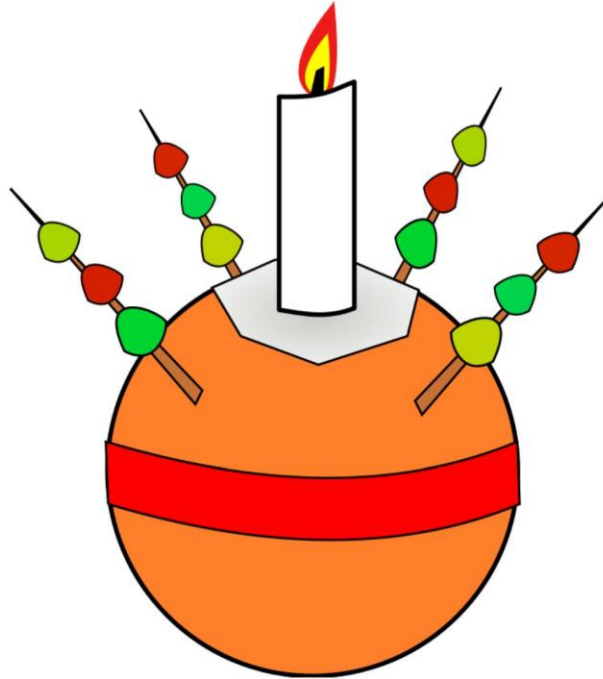
Helen Watts, Warehouse Manager of the Thurrock Foodbank has sent us a "Reverse Advent Calendar" (See Notice Board) which shows a list of foods and other items they would like us to donate during November. This will ensure the Foodbank is in a position, through our support, to give their clients a good Christmas.

The shortages are sponge puddings, jam, chocolate, rice pudding, mashed potato, cordial, vegetable soup and tinned carrots.

Tesco Collection – Thursday 29, Friday 30th November and Saturday 1st December. We will be taking part in the Tesco Neighbourhood Collection on these dates. If you can volunteer for a couple of hours across any of these days please email Sarah on sarahcordell@Thurrock.Foodbank.org.uk or call 01375 416200.

Christingle Service

Sunday 2nd December

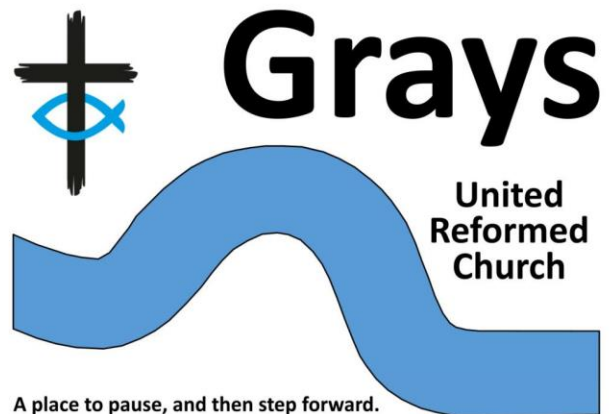


9.30 - 10.10am

An informal service where we will make Christingles, explore the message of Christmas, sing, and share refreshments together afterwards.

There will be a collection in support of the Children's Society.

This is the first of a series of short, monthly services aimed at young families.
Next: Sunday 6th Jan @9.30am



A place to pause, and then step forward.

Christmas Services



Sun 2nd Dec 9.30am Christingle Service for young families

10.30am Advent 1 - Call to Wisdom - Communion

Sun 9th Dec 10.30am Advent 2 - Prepare the Way - family worship

6.30pm Carol Service and Tilbury Band Concert

Wed 12th Dec 3.30pm Christmas Messy Church

Sun 16th Dec 10.30am Advent 3 - Call to Action - parade service

Sun 23rd Dec 10.30am Advent 4 - Rejoice in God - family worship

6.30pm Service of lessons and carols

Mon 24th Dec 2.30-3pm Family Christmas worship

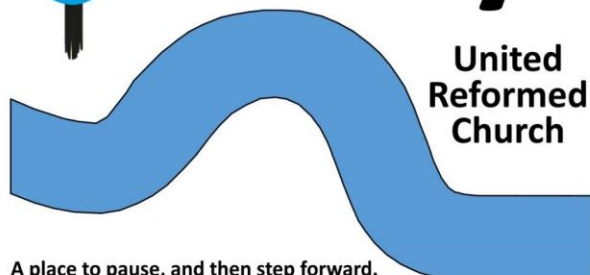
11.30pm Watchnight service

Sun 30th Dec 10.30am Family Worship



Grays

United
Reformed
Church



A place to pause, and then step forward.



CHURCH CALENDAR

SERVICES

| | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| SUNDAY | 10.30 am | FAMILY SERVICE |
| HOLY COMMUNION | 10.30 am | 1 st SUNDAY EACH MONTH |
| | 6.30 pm | 3 rd SUNDAY EACH MONTH |
| PARADE SERVICE | 10.30 am | 3 rd SUNDAY EACH MONTH |

MEETINGS

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--|
| COFFEE MORNING | 10.30 am | EACH WEDNESDAY |
| BOWLS | 2.00 pm & 7.30 pm | EACH MONDAY |
| PRAYER MEETING | 10.00 am | 2 nd WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH (before coffee) |
| | 6.45 pm | EVERY FRIDAY |
| MESSY CHURCH | | AS ANNOUNCED |

- For information about Messy Church – Worship together for families – please contact Denise Beckley on 07806 739959.
- All meetings take place in the Church or the Church hall unless otherwise indicated.

You can find us at: **Bradleigh Avenue, Grays, RM17 5XD**

On our website at: **Graysurc.org.uk**



URC Grays